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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2302

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 HAVANA 06415

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: [PTER](#) [CU](#)
SUBJECT: ANNUAL TERRORISM REPORT

REF: STATE 355397

11. THIS CABLE RESPONDS TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED IN REFTEL.

12. DESCRIBE ANY HOST GOVERNMENT PROSECUTIONS INVOLVING INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND/OR SIGNIFICANT ACTS OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM:

THE ONLY OSTENSIBLE PROSECUTION OF TERRORIST ACTS IN 1990 WAS THE JULY 16 TRIAL OF 11 MEMBERS OF A GROUP KNOWN AS THE YOUTH ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, ACCUSED OF CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT TERRORIST ACTS, INCLUDING PLANS TO DYNAMITE THE NATIONAL LIBRARY, PLANS TO STEAL ARMS BY FORCE FROM A MILITARY UNIT, TO PLANT A CAR BOMB AND TO OCCUPY A FOREIGN EMBASSY. THE TRIAL WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC, BUT WAS NOT ATTENDED BY WESTERN OBSERVERS. NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO JUDGE THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED IN SUPPORT OF THE CHARGES. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS THE TERRORISTS WERE FOUND WITH 900 GRAMS OF TNT, ELECTRIC DETONATORS AND 7.62 MM SHELLS. THE GROUP WAS FALSELY ACCUSED OF LINKS WITH THE U.S. INTERESTS SECTION IN HAVANA.

13. DID THE HOST GOVERNMENT EXTRADITE OR REQUEST THE EXTRADITION OF SUSPECTED TERRORIST FOR PROSECUTION?

CUBA DID NOT MAKE ANY SUCH REQUEST IN 1990. HOWEVER, IT HAD REQUESTED EXTRADITION OF ORLANDO BOSCH FROM VENEZUELA WHILE HE WAS HELD THERE. ALTHOUGH NO EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES EXISTS, THE OFFICIAL CUBAN PRESS MADE IT CLEAR THAT CUBA WANTED THE UNITED STATES TO RETURN ORLANDO BOSCH TO CUBA TO FACE CHARGES IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1976 BOMBING OF A CUBANA COMMERCIAL AIRPLANE THAT RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF ALL ON BOARD.

14. DISCUSS HOST GOVERNMENT RESPONSES OTHER THAN PROSECUTION:

CUBAN PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE CONDEMNED THE KILLING OF CIVILIANS BY GOVERNMENT AND IRREGULAR FORCES OR DEATH SQUADS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, EL SALVADOR, GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA AND COLOMBIA. THE CONDEMNATION UNIFORMLY FOLLOWED POLITICAL LINES. THAT IS, OFFICIAL STATEMENTS CONDEMNED CLAIMED PRE-MEDITATED KILLING OF CIVILIANS WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN BY GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS NOT SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA. THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA DID NOT CONDEMN TERRORIST ACTS APPARENTLY COMMITTED BY IRREGULAR FORCES OR GOVERNMENTS SUPPORTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA. THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA DID NOT MAKE ANY EFFORT TO INVESTIGATE OR ASSIST WITH INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM INVESTIGATIONS.

16. DESCRIBE MAJOR COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN IN 1990 BY THE HOST GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING STEPS TAKEN IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

NO MAJOR COUNTERTERRORISM EFFORTS WERE UNDERTAKEN. CUBA MAINTAINS A LARGE POLICE/STATE SECURITY APPARATUS WHICH EFFECTIVELY MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR DOMESTIC TERRORISM TO PROSPER. EXTENSIVE SOCIAL CONTROL AND STATE INTRUSION INTO NEARLY ALL ASPECTS OF PRIVATE LIFE MAKE IT VERY LIKELY THAT NASCENT TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS WILL BE DISCOVERED OR NECESSARILY REMAIN SO SMALL AND INSULAR THAT THEY WILL HAVE LITTLE IMPACT.

17. DESCRIBE ANY SIGNIFICANT HOST GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM, INCLUDING POLITICAL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR TERRORISTS; DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT THROUGH DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION, MISUSE OF THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH, AND OTHER PRIVILEGES TO SUPPORT TERRORISM; SANCTUARY EXTENDED TO TERRORISTS OR TERRORIST GROUPS AND/OR THE PRESENCE OF OFFICE OF SUCH GROUPS; HOST GOVERNMENT TRAINING OR THE PROVISION OF TRAINING SITES TO TERRORIST GROUPS; AND POSITIONS TAKEN ON TERRORISM ISSUES IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

THE GOC POLITICALLY SUPPORTS OR SUPPORTED FARABUNDO MARTI NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT, THE GUATEMALAN NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY UNITY, THE POLITICAL ARM OF THE COLOMBIAN REVOLUTIONARY ARMED FORCES, THE FORMER 19TH OF APRIL MOVEMENT, THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION. CUBAN MAINTAINS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH "THE STATE OF PALESTINE", AND RECOGNIZES THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS AS A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT. IT ALSO RECOGNIZED THE SOUTHWEST AFRICAN PEOPLES ORGANIZATION (SWAPO) AS A NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT BEFORE NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE. CUBA SUPPLIED MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO SWAPO, THE FMLN, THE M-19, AND PROBABLY THE FARC. CUBA IS WIDELY THOUGHT TO CONTINUE ARMS AND OTHER MILITARY SUPPORT TO THE FMLN.

18. HAS THE HOST GOVERNMENT MADE ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF A TERRORIST SUPPORTING COUNTRY ON A TERRORISM ISSUE?

CUBA OPENLY SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENTS OF IRAN, IRAQ, LIBYA, NORTH KOREA, AND SYRIA. IT DOES NOT OPENLY SUPPORT TERRORISM, WHICH IT DISTINGUISHES, ALONG POLITICAL LINES, FROM NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS.

19. DESCRIBE ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE SINCE 1989, POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, IN THE HOST GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD TERRORISM, INTERNATIONAL OR DOMESTIC. WHAT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CHANGE?

CUBA CONTINUED TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA ACCORDING TO SCHEDULE. TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS OR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS SUPPORTED POLITICALLY AND PERHAPS MILITARILY BY CUBA HAVE BEEN LESS ACTIVE IN 1990 THAN IN 1989, EXCEPT THE FMLN IN EL SALVADOR, AND PERHAPS THE GUATEMALAN NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY UNITY.

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